

## CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

- 1 1. A computing system including operating system  
2 software configurable for controlling different  
3 computer hardware, comprising:
  - 4 (a) a processor;
  - 5 (b) at least one storage device;
  - 6 (c) a software operating system operable in a plurality of  
7 different computer hardware configurations, the  
8 software operating system having modifiable system  
9 initialization information stored in the at least one  
10 storage device; and
  - 11 (d) a system enabler containing information for  
12 configuring the software operating system for a  
13 computer hardware configuration.
- 1 2. The computing system according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the system enabler is stored in a nonvolatile read-  
3 write memory storage device.
- 1 3. The computing system according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the system enabler is stored in a read only memory.
- 1 4. The computing system according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the system enabler includes selectable software  
3 patches and resources.

1 5. The computing system according to claim 1, including  
2 processor means for transferring the software  
3 operating system and system enabler from a storage  
4 device to a random access memory.

1 6. The computing system according to claim 1, including  
2 a plurality of system enablers containing date and  
3 hardware compatibility information.

1 7. The computing system according to claim 6, wherein  
2 the software operating system utilizes a particular  
3 system enabler.

1 8. A method for modifying a generic software operating  
2 system to control a plurality of computer hardware  
3 systems, comprising the steps of:  
4 (a) storing a software operating system and a computer  
5 hardware system enabler on a storage device;  
6 (b) transferring the software operating system and  
7 system enabler from the storage device; and  
8 (c) modifying the software operating system, with  
9 information from the system enabler file, to adapt the  
10 software operating system for operation on a  
11 computer hardware system.

1 9. The method of claim 8, including the steps of:  
2 (a) storing a plurality of system enablers containing  
3 computer hardware compatibility information and  
4 selection criteria in computer system nonvolatile  
5 read-write memory; and  
6 (b) selecting from said plurality of system enablers a  
7 system enabler file having compatible information  
8 corresponding to a computer hardware configuration.

1 10. A method for providing a computing system, including  
2 operating system software, configurable with a  
3 system enabler to control different computers,  
4 comprising the steps of:  
5 (a) selecting a system enabler; and  
6 (b) configuring the operating system software to control  
7 a computer hardware configuration using the selected  
8 system enabler.

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1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the system enabler is  
2 stored in a nonvolatile read-write memory device.

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1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the system enabler is  
2 stored in a read only memory.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the system enabler  
2 includes selectable software patches and resources.

1 14. The method of claim 10, including the step of  
2 transferring the operating system software and  
3 system enabler from a storage device to a random  
4 access memory.

1 15. The method of claim 10, including the step of  
2 providing a plurality of system enablers having  
3 selection criteria and hardware compatibility  
4 information.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the software  
2 operating system utilizes the system enabler with a  
3 most recent date-time stamp.

1 17. The method of claim 10 wherein the system enabler  
2 contains information corresponding to a machine  
3 state.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the software  
2 operating system utilizes the system enabler with a  
3 most recent date-time stamp.

1 19. The method of claim 10 wherein the system enabler  
2 contains information corresponding to selection  
3 criteria.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the software  
2 operating system utilizes the system enabler with a  
3 most appropriate selection criteria.